



UPDATED MEDIA RELEASE

Homeowner Shoots Intruder, Suspect in Custody

SANTA BARBARA, CA – April 16, 2012

The suspect in this incident is William Cavit Blair, age 33, of Santa Barbara. He has had contacts with the Santa Barbara Police Department since 2010 and is currently on unsupervised probation. He has no relationship to the victim, who has asked to remain unnamed. Blair remains hospitalized at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital.

The case has been forwarded to the Santa Barbara District Attorney's Office for review. The Santa Barbara Police Department has requested that the following criminal charges be considered: burglary, vandalism, prowling, and assault with a deadly weapon. The latter charge based on the fact that during the incident Blair was armed with a lantern, seemed intent on doing the victim bodily harm, and while in close proximity to the victim thrust it at him.

SANTA BARBARA, CA – April 11, 2012

On April 11, 2012 at 4:17 a.m., the Santa Barbara Police Department's Combined Communications Center began receiving multiple calls of a disturbance in progress at two residences on the 900 block of W. Pedregosa Street. As several officers were responding the owner of one of the residences shot the suspect who was breaking into his home. The suspect received a serious gunshot wound to his right leg and was treated by paramedics at the scene. He is currently in custody at Cottage Hospital where he has been admitted for treatment.

This investigation is still ongoing and therefore many details, including the exact locations of the incident and the victim's and suspect's names are being withheld. Detectives are still in the process of conducting interviews, securing evidence, and making referrals to those affected by the incident to victim & witness services.

Thus far, the investigation indicates the following. The suspect, a 33-year old white male who recently began residing in the area, was seen and heard prowling on the property of a residence on 900 W. Pedregosa Street. When warned by one of the residents of that home to leave the property, the suspect made an obscene gesture to her and continued to the rear of the property, smashing through a gate. That resident described the suspect as acting strangely, as if he were in some altered state of mind. She called 911.

The suspect then broke through another gate and entered a neighboring property. He approached the front door and began knocking. This awoke the victim, who is the homeowner. The victim, a 54-year old white male, responded and overheard the suspect utter something about money. The victim told the suspect to leave and that he was not going to open the door. The suspect then began repeatedly and forcefully kicking the front door of the residence before walking around to the rear of the property.

Inside the residence with the victim was his wife and adult son. All were concerned for their safety which prompted both the victim and his son to call 911. The victim armed himself with an M-1 carbine rifle that he owned and went to the rear of his home where he was concerned the suspect might gain entry. The suspect appeared on the back patio of the residence and there began kicking a set of French doors with glass window panes. The victim yelled at the suspect to leave, however the suspect responded with a statement indicating that he was suicidal and continued to attempt to break the patio doors. The suspect picked up a lantern from the patio and struck the doors with it, breaking some of the glass and protruding into the residence with it. The victim then fired a warning shot, downward through the door and near the suspect; however the suspect continued to attempt to gain entry. After approximately ten seconds the victim fired again, through the door, striking the suspect and stopping his effort to break into the house. A moment later the first responding officers arrived, took the suspect into custody, and rendered first aid to his wound.

The suspect is currently under arrest for burglary, prowling, and vandalism. Additional charges may be sought as the investigation continues. He will remain under twenty-four hour watch by officers until he is released from the hospital and can be booked into Santa Barbara County Jail.

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